Acquisition of ships by SCI

3332. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India had sought Government's approval to acquire more ships for it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total amount involved for acquiring new ships; and

(d) whether the SCI has sought financial assistance from Government to meet its target?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has sought Government approval for the following projects:

2 Capesize Bulk Carriers;

6 Handymax Bulk Carriers;

2 Container Vessels of 4,300 TEU; and

6 LR-I size Product Tankers.

(c) The estimated cost of the above proposals is approx. Rs. 3200 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

First phase of National Highways project

†3333. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on first phase of National Highways project is moving at snails' pace;

(b)if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, there have been some

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.